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Ray Lashes CIA For Ouster As Exile Chief

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Cuban underground leader Manuel (Manolo) Ray today blasted the Central Intelligence Agency for allegedly maneuvering to divide and weaken the People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP) and force his ouster as its leader.

In a blistering statement accompanied by a similar stinging manifesto issued by the MRP exterior committee, Ray charged that the CIA was behind the recent decision of the MRP national executive in Cuba to dismiss him as general coordinator.

Ray's statement also asserted that he was submitting his "irrevocable" resignation as the MRP chieftain, but demanded that the movement's leaders here and in Cuba investigate carefully the circumstances that provoked the current controversy.

REPLACEMENT

The News reported last Monday that MRP leaders still in Cuba had voted to relieve Ray of his command and send a replacement here.

The successor chosen in Havana arrived in Miami last week and has met with Ray and his supporters on at least three occasions. His identity has not been disclosed, at his request, because members of his family are still in Cuba.

The conference have not produced a solution to the leadership problems. It has become apparent that the leader chosen in Cuba is not acceptable to the Ray forces in exile here.

FIRST IN PUBLIC

Before and since the ill-fated April 17 invasion of Cuba by forces directed largely by the CIA, Ray has been privately critical of the intelligence agency. Today's statement is his first public denunciation.

"We have dedicated our capacity of understanding and firmness," his statement said, "in order that our present sacrifices not be frustrated by the tremendous backward and corrupt forces that are maintained in alertness against our efforts.

"I denounce that the Central Intelligence Agency of this country has been actively endeavoring to divide and weaken the MRP."

EPISODE

Ray said his charges could be illustrated by an episode which occurred during the weekend, when the exterior committee met to confer with the representative from Havana.

Ray explained that the Cuban chosen to succeed him told members of the committee here that agents of the CIA had met privately with him last Wednesday.

"They (the CIA agents) insisted that the first problem that had to be solved 'in order for the MRP to receive financial assistance it needs to continue fighting is the ouster of Coordinator-general Manuel Ray,' the 36-year-old engineer declared.

"Thirteen members of the exterior committee's executive group are witnesses of this unusual message.

"The objective of such insistence is not, we know, our person, but rather to bring about the natural disintegration of a movement that will not accept being controlled by anything other than the sentiment and aspirations of the Cuban people."

Ray's statement said he was relinquishing "irrevocably the position of coordinator general of the organization, even though I flatly reject not only the reason but the accuracy of the charges that gave rise to the decision in Cuba."

ELECTIVE

He pointed out that since the foundation of the MRP he held his post through elective processes. He said he was certain of the sincerity and cleanliness of all the MRP efforts and "convinced of the principles and ideology that founded the movement."

The manifesto of the exterior committee declared it does not acknowledge the authority claimed by the MRP group in Cuba and has agreed to overrule the action taken by them in sending an envoy to replace Ray.

The exterior committee, following a series of meetings here during the last several nights, proposed that in view of Ray's announced resignation the executive groups here and in Cuba should jointly designate a new general coordinator.

The document mentioned no candidates, but it is known that consideration has been given to Rogelio (Eugenio) Cisneros, who was the top clandestine coordinator in Cuba before coming to Miami in May.

Other candidates mentioned have been Felipe Pazos, former head of the National Bank of Cuba, who came here from Puerto Rico for the conferences, and Raul Chibas, a former leader of the July 26 Movement who heads MRP activity in New York.

Those who signed the manifesto include:

Cisneros, Chibas, Pazos, Orlando Alvarez Barquin, Napoleon Becquer, Orlando Castro, Jose M. Estevez, Emilio Guedes, Pedro Martin (Serafin), Dagoberto Ponc, Enrique Barroso, Dr. Jorge Beruff, Alfredo Dominguez, Armando Lora, Lucas Mon and Roberto Suarez (Gonzalo).

The committee also lashed the CIA for meddling in the internal affairs of the MRP, with "evident intention of destroying it."